

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 EB-11 OMB-01 TAR-02 SPC-03

AGR-20 AID-20 CIAE-00 COME-00 INR-10 LAB-06 NSAE-00

OIC-04 RSC-01 SIL-01 STR-08 TRSE-00 CIEP-02 CEA-02

AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 NEA-10 SS-20 NSC-10 L-03 H-03

PRS-01 PA-04 USIA-15 DRC-01 /235 W
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US MISSION GENEVA 2043

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: FAO, UNCTAD, EAGR

SUBJ: SPECIAL FAO/UNCTAD /AD HOC/ CONSULTATION ON RICE

/SUMMARY/. SPECIAL AD HOC FAO/UNCTAD CONSULTATIONS ON RICE
CONCLUDED JANUARY 16. RESULT OF MEETING WAS INCONCLUSIVE,
WITH DELEGATES MAKING NO RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SPECIFIC ACTION AND
ALSO NOT DECIDING THAT ANY ADDITIONAL /AD HOC/ SESSSIONS WOULD
BE NECESSARY. /END SUMMARY/.

1. MOST SIGNIFICANT PART OF FINAL REPORT ADOPTED BY CONSULTATIONS
STATED THAT, AFTER A REVIEW OF POSSIBLE MEASURES WHICH MIGHT
BE TAKEN TO IMPROVE ACCESS TO MARKETS AND PRICING POLICY,
"NO COMPLETE CONSENSUS WAS YET EVIDENT ON ANY SINGLE PROPOSAL,
AS SUCH. IT WAS UNDERSTOOD, MOREOVER, THAT NO GOVERNMENT WAS IN
A POSITION TO COMMIT ITSELF TO A PARTICULAR COURSE OF ACTION
DURING THE INTENSIVE CONSULTATIONS." REPORT THUS LISTS
VARIOUS PROPOSALS WHICH WERE ENUMERATED IN DOCUMENT CCP"RI/
CONS 74/2 (PARAS 63-124) AND WHICH COULD BE CONSIDERED BY
GOVERNMENTS AND APPROPRIATE INTERESTED FORUMS.

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2. HIGHLIGHTS OF MEETING WERE THE FOLLOWING:

(A) LONG DEBATE IN PLENARY OVER ISSUE OF WHETHER AD HOC CONSULTATIONS WERE ONLY CONSULTATIONS OR MIGHT INVOLVE NEGOTIATION OF SPECIFIC COMMITMENTS BY GOVERNMENTS. UNCTAD SECRETARIAT (CHIDZERO) MADE INTERPRETATION WHICH IMPLIED NEGOTIATIONS MIGHT BE CONSIDERED UNDER RESOLUTIONS 83 (III) AND 7 (VII) TO BE WITHIN THE CONCEPT OF "NEGOTIATIONS" AND SEVERAL LDC DELS AGREED WITH THIS INTERPRETATION. RESULTING LANGUAGE CITED ABOVE FINALLY ADOPTED, HOWEVER.

(B) ALMOST ALL TOTAL ISOLATION OF EC ON A NUMBER OF ISSUES, INCLUDING SPECIFICALLY WHETHER ACCESS TO MARKETS SHOULD PLAY A PRIMARY ROLE IN CONSULTATIONS (THEY WERE OPPOSED, AND INSISTED THAT PRICE STABILIZATION BY MEANS OF COMMODITY AGREEMENTS SHOULD BE EMPHASIZED) AND WHETHER VARIABLE LEVIES SHOULD BE CITED AS ONE OF FACTORS INFLUENCING TRADE IN RICE (EC ARGUED THESE NOT A SIGNIFICANT FACTOR IN TRADE AND FURTHERMORE NOT A TRADE BARRIER BUT RATHER AN INTERNAL MEASURE; FINAL DECISION OF GROUP, AFTER INTERVENTION BY U.S. DELEGATE (WHO WAS SUPPORTED BY LDCS) INSISTING THAT VARIABLE LEVIES BE INCLUDED IN LIST OF BORDER MEASURES AFFECTING TRADE WAS TO RETAIN MENTION OF VARIABLE LEVIES, AND INCLUDE FOOTNOTE INDICATING THAT EC RESERVED ON INCLUSION OF REFERENCE ON DOCUMENT TO VARIABLE LEVIES.

(E) THERE WAS NO PRESSURE FOR AN ADDITIONAL /AD HOC/ MEETING, EITHER BY THE DELEGATES OR THE FAO SECRETARIAT; IT WAS CONCLUDED THAT THE MEETING HAD TAKEN ALL THE ACTION IT WAS NECESSARY TO ACHIEVE IN ITS CURRENT SESSION.VOLPE

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